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MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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TO THE TAXONOMIC WORKERS IN THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY:

In order to facilitate the identification work and better organize the taxonomic work done by the Bureau along lines of investigation which would have a bearing on Agriculture and the economic work of the Bureau, and in order that taxonomic workers may be represented in all conferences relating to general policies, it has been deemed advisable to establish a section of taxonomic investigations. This has been done and I have selected Mr. Rohwer as Entomologist in charge of this work. I should be very glad if you will cooperate with Mr. Rohwer in any way that he may desire, so that the taxonomic work of the Bureau may be conducted along more fundamental lines and projects established for all of the work. In connection with this work, I would request that hereafter you transmit your manuscripts through Mr. Rohwer. This is done largely to facilitate the keeping of definite records concerning technical output.

L. O. Howard

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

G. A. Dean, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

D. J. Caffrey and L. H. Patch attended a conference of entomologists of the East Central States which occurred during Farmers' Week at the Ohio State University February 2 to 6, inclusive. They report as one of the results of this conference an excellent understanding with regard to the plans for the conduct of the corn borer work during the coming season.

Adonis A. Mathewson, a graduate of Ohio State University, was appointed Assistant Entomologist January 16, 1925, for duty in connection with the corn borer control work in Ohio and Michigan. Mr. Mathewson will make his headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, and take an important part in the control campaign which is being conducted throughout this region during the approaching spring.

L. H. Worthley, Administrative Officer in charge of the corn borer control work, visited the western area of infestation during the week of February 9. A conference of Pennsylvania State entomologists and officials was attended by Mr. Worthley at Erie on February 10, during which plans for the corn borer control work in Pennsylvania were formulated and arranged.

M. C. Lane returned February 9 to his field station at Toppenish, Wash., after a protracted visit to Washington, during which he had the opportunity of inspecting the corn borer research work. He also became acquainted with



the extensive investigations conducted at the Japanese Beetle laboratory at Riverton, N. J. Mr. Lane's principal work during the coming season will be studies of the wireworms in the Yakima Valley.

C. H. Gable, of the San Antonio, Tex., laboratory, conducted a scouting expedition during the week of February 2 for the purpose of determining the grasshopper situation in Brown and McCulloch Counties. He found that although reports had been circulated to the effect that most of the eggs had been killed, more than 90 per cent of them were still in hatchable condition, and there were strong indications of serious trouble in that part of the State again this year. Later reports regarding the grasshopper situation in northern Texas are of a similar character.

Philip Luginbill and George G. Ainslie, of Columbia, S. C., and Knoxville, Tenn., respectively, attended the meeting of the Cotton States Entomologists at Atlanta, Ga., during the week of February 2. They report an attendance of at least one hundred persons and the presentation of many interesting papers, most of which dealt with work on the boll weevil, pecan insects, and peach insects; but the contacts which they were able to make at this meeting were most advantageous to the work of this division.

W. A. Baker, for several years located at the San Antonio station as assistant to Mr. Gable, was transferred to Dallas, Tex., January 21, 1925; where he will take charge of a substation and have as his main project the investigations of the green bug and grasshoppers affecting cereal and forage crops. Through the kindness of F. C. Bishopp Mr. Baker has been able to locate quarters at Mr. Bishopp's laboratory and will have the advantage of association with Mr. Bishopp and his staff. In connection with his new duties Mr. Baker made a trip to Amarillo, Tex., in the week of February 24, to investigate grasshopper and green bug conditions in northern and western Texas. Very few green bugs were found, and it is believed that there is no danger of an outbreak there during the coming spring.

The sudden death on February 12 of P. R. Myers, in charge of the Carlisle, Pa., field station, was a severe shock to his numerous friends throughout the Bureau. Mr. Myers was seized with septic pneumonia on February 5 and was desperately ill from the very first. He had just completed a very important manuscript dealing with the entire group of parasites affecting the Hessian fly. It is believed that his extreme devotion to duty and his strenuous labors in connection with this manuscript may have contributed to the illness which caused his death. Mr. Myers was a man of most lovable character and will be greatly missed. His work during the last few years had become increasingly valuable, and the loss of his services to the Bureau at this time is a most severe blow. A sketch of his life and work will be published in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington. The funeral services of Mr. Myers were held on February 16, and were attended by W. R. Walton, Entomologist Acting in Charge of the Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations, who represented the Bureau and Mr. Myers's Washington friends.



C. C. Hill, who had acted as Mr. Myers's first assistant for several years, has been placed in charge of the Carlisle laboratory. Fortunately, Mr. Hill was very close to Mr. Myers, both in his personal relations and in the conduct of the work, and for these reasons will be in a position to continue the research work most advantageously.

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#### TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Entomologist, in Charge

W. H. White, Associate Entomologist, visited Sanford, Fla., to investigate a report of the early seasonal occurrence of the celery leaf-tyer (*Phlyctaenia rubigalis*) in the celery fields of that section. While in Florida Mr. White conferred with the officials of the Florida State Plant Board at Gainesville and discussed the celery leaf-tyer problem. Through the courtesy of A. C. Foster, the plant pathologist of the Department, stationed at Sanford, Mr. White became acquainted early with the celery-growing districts and met many of the growers and others interested in celery production. Mr. Boyden, of the Tampa station, accompanied Mr. White for a few days during the investigations.

J. E. Dudley, Jr., Associate Entomologist, has left Madison, Wis., and is now temporarily located in Alhambra, Calif. where, in cooperation with R. E. Campbell, he will conduct experiments for the control of the pea aphid under California conditions.

W. A. Thomas, Junior Entomologist, Chadbourn, N. C., visited Brunswick, Ga., to investigate an outbreak of Porto Rican mole crickets attacking the greens of the Jekyll Island Golf Club.

J. A. McLemore, Junior Entomologist, has been transferred from Lyman (Harrison Co.), to Picayune (Pearl River Co.), Miss. He will continue his work on sweet-potato weevil eradication and will devote his time to the territory surrounding Picayune.

Troy Thompson, Junior Entomologist, has been transferred from Ocean Springs (Jackson Co.) to Waveland (Hancock Co.), Miss. He will devote his time to the sweet-potato weevil in the western part of Hancock County and assist in emergency work in the Picayune area in Pearl River County.

The sweet-potato weevil eradication work in Mississippi has been reorganized under the direction of K. L. Cockerham, Biloxi, Miss. Federal inspectors are now concentrated in Pearl River and Hancock Counties, and the work in Jackson and Harrison Counties has been taken over by inspectors of the State Plant Board. This plan is in line with the concentration of the work. It is hoped that more men will be available for these operations in the future in order to continue the very promising results which have been secured during the last two years.



E. G. Caldwell has been appointed an inspector of the Alabama State Board of Horticulture to keep in touch with the sweet-potato weevil situation in the neighborhood of Foley, Baldwin Co., where several infested sweet potatoes were recently found in a storage house. He will work in cooperation with S. C. Brummitt, of this Bureau, stationed at Grand Bay, Ala.

R. W. Haegele has been given a temporary appointment as Field Assistant to assist in the investigation of the wireworm problem at Toppenish, Wash.

#### FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Entomologist, in Charge.

Dr. Craighead and R. A. St. George spent about two weeks in February in Louisiana and northern Florida, making further observations on the extensive areas of pine which died last fall. It now appears that the trouble is practically over and that no trees have died since December, this fact further indicating that the extreme drought is the primary cause of the death of the trees. At the same time several days were spent in field work with the officers of the Southern Experiment Station of the Forest Service. The interrelations between insects and fire and insects and turpentine were pointed out. It was found that certain borers play an important role in the weakening of fire-scorched and turpentine trees, making them very susceptible to wind-throw.

The Nantucket tip moth (Rhyacionia frustrana Comstock) was found to be quite abundant in certain plantations of loblolly and slash pine in eastern Louisiana. The former species was considerably stunted in its growth. In some cases young growth about five years of age had attained only half of its normal height. The slash pine was only slightly affected in its growth.

On February 25 and 26 Mr. St. George investigated an outbreak of the southern pine beetle (Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.) which occurred on a private estate located on a peninsula outside of Georgetown, S. C. On a 16,000-acre tract of loblolly, pond and longleaf pines, over 1,000 trees were attacked and killed between 1922 and 1925. The trees commenced to die following a storm of 1916 when salt water was forced back over the timber land, which is only 12 feet above sea level. Although there was an abundance of moisture during this time it was thought that probably the action of the salt upon the root system affected the growth of the trees in a manner somewhat similar to that when they are affected by drought. Control measures have been under way during the last three winters and the beetle is now believed to be under control. The presence of this beetle in this vicinity at this time is particularly interesting in view of the fact that no specimens were found last fall in the drought-affected area (Alabama and Texas), where over 100,000,000 feet of timber died, all infested by species of the barkbeetle *Ips*.



## GPSY MOTH AND BROWN-TAIL MOTH INVESTIGATIONS

A. F. Burgess, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

S. M. Dohanian sailed for France on February 11, 1925. He will make arrangements at Cherbourg and at Paris for the handling of shipments of parasites of the gipsy moth and the brown-tail moth which may be sent to Melrose Highlands through these offices during the coming season. He will then proceed to Spain and Portugal and if suitable gipsy moth infestations can be located, will carry on several field laboratories during the summer in both countries. The purpose of this work is the continuation of the introduction of gipsy moth parasites and predators into the moth-infested areas in the United States.

On February 21, 1925, R. T. Webber and P. B. Dowden sailed for Bremen, Germany, to continue the foreign studies of the gipsy and brown-tail moths in central and southeastern Europe. They will establish several temporary field laboratories from which parasites will be sent to Melrose Highlands for study and liberation in this country.

T. H. Jones will sail for Bremen on April 4, 1925, on a quick trip to central Europe to help collect and bring back the gipsy moth parasites which Messrs. Webber and Dowden will have at that time. He expects to arrive in Melrose Highlands near the end of May with this material, which will need constant attention en route.

S. S. Crossman, who for the last three years, has been conducting the foreign parasite work for this section, will not go to Europe the present season. His duties at the Gipsy Moth Laboratory have been extended, and he has been made first assistant in the gipsy moth and brown-tail moth investigations. His present duties will necessitate his more constant presence at Melrose Highlands.

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## SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. L. Webb, Associate Entomologist, Acting in Charge

W. E. Haley, of the Sugar Cane Insect Laboratory at New Orleans, La., has been given a furlough for the months of February and March in Order that the Tropical Plant Research Foundation may have the benefit of his services in procuring tachinid parasites for a Cuban sugar plantation badly affected by the sugarcane moth borer. Mr. Haley left New Orleans for Cuba February 3.

F. C. Bishopp delivered a series of lectures on insects affecting domestic animals and poultry at the "Farmers' Week" meetings at the Iowa Agricultural College during the first week in February.



Dr. W. D. Hunter, B.R. Coad, and several other members of the force, attended the meeting of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers, at Atlanta, February 3 and 4.

J. L. Webb also attended the Atlanta meeting and visited the boll weevil laboratory at Tallulah, La., before returning to Washington.

T. E. Holloway has been elected to membership in the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, which was formed by the sugar section of the Pan-Pacific Conservation Conference which met in Honolulu last summer.

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### FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

Robert C. Burdette, a graduate of the Maryland State University, has been appointed Junior Entomologist and will be associated with Dr. Richardson in connection with insecticide investigations, with headquarters at Sligo, Md.

Orville C. McBride, a graduate of the Ohio State University, has been appointed Junior Entomologist and assigned to duty at the Bureau's laboratory at Orlando, Fla., where he will assist in connection with investigations of the more important citrus fruit insects.

Dr. Henry Fox, who was employed several seasons in connection with the Japanese beetle project, has been appointed Associate Entomologist and assigned to duty at Riverton, N. J., where he will undertake ecologic and biologic studies of the Japanese beetle.

Five workers on aphids visited the Bureau in January for a study of the collections and for consultation with the experts in this group. These were Miss Alice Macdougall, of Toronto, Canada, and Messrs. A. A. Granovsky of Wisconsin, C. R. Cutright of Wooster, Ohio, George F. Knowlton of Ohio State University, and A. H. Beyer of Florida. Mr. Cutright is making a special study of the biology and taxonomy of subterranean aphids and Mr. Granovsky is studying the Tribe Callipterini. Miss Macdougall brought with her an interesting collection of the aphids of western British Columbia, many of which apparently represent undescribed species. The discussions of these students emphasized the growing tendency to approach taxonomy from the biological viewpoint.

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### BEE CULTURE INVESTIVATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

Jas. I. Hambleton recently attended several beekeepers' meetings in New York State, as follows: Albany and Schenectady, on February 2; Syracuse,



February 3; Buffalo, February 4. He also participated in the beekeeping "short course" held at Ohio State University, February 5 and 6.

On February 12 Mr. Hambleton was at Johns Hopkins University in consultation concerning the new grader for extracted honey, and from February 25 to 27 he was engaged in locating a site in eastern Delaware sufficiently isolated for the purpose of certain field work to be undertaken this summer.

E. L. Sechrist took part in the short course given by Purdue University from February 16 to 20, and also attended the meetings at Carbondale and Elgin, Ill., held February 23 to 24, and February 25 to 26, respectively.

Dr. J. W. Bulger, who completed graduate work at Ohio State University last year, has been appointed Assistant Apicultural Physiologist.

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#### TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

C. H. Curran, Dipterist in charge of the Canadian National collection, and a member of the entomological branch of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, has visited the Division of Insects to consult the various specialists and examine types of Diptera in the National collection. Mr. Curran is now spending some time studying Tachinidae.

By the will of the late Thomas L. Casey, a well known coleopterist, his collection of insects and library on entomology have been bequeathed to the National Museum. This collection is one of the largest additions ever received by the National Museum and is estimated to contain about 16,000 species, of which probably 6,000 are represented by types. The addition of this collection of beetles will greatly increase the value of the Museum collection in this order and will make available to the Bureau specialists types of many species and Casey's idea of the limits of forms described by other authors. The collection will not become the property of the Museum until after the will has been probated, but in anticipation of its receipt certain steps have been taken to formulate and discuss the best methods of handling this extensive gift, and on March 3, at the invitation of the Associate Curator of Insects, a conference of thirteen specialists was held. Most of the men attending this conference were coleopterists, and as a result of the meeting a set of resolutions was adopted expressing the views of those present.

Charles Schaeffer, of the Brooklyn Museum, recently visited the Division of Insects for a few days, examining the collection of Coleoptera and consulting with the specialists, and was also present at the conference discussing the handling of the Casey collection.



E. T. Cresson, Jr., of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, spent a number of days in the Division of Insects examining types of flies belonging to the family Ephydriidae. Mr. Cresson also represented the National Academy of Sciences at the conference discussing the handling of the Casey collection.

Dr. Wm. Schaus spent part of the last week in February in Pittsburgh, and during his visit there received the degree of doctor of science from the University of Pittsburgh.

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## LIBRARY

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## NEW BOOKS

Blackman, M. W., and others.

I. On the succession of insects living in the bark of wood of dying, dead and decaying hickory. By W. H. Blackman and H. H. Stage. II. Two new staphylinids from Cranberry Lake, New York. By Howard Notman. III. A preliminary list of the Coleoptera of the Cranberry Lake region, New York, exclusive of the Buprestidae, Cerambycidae and Ipidae. By Melville H. Hatch. IV. A preliminary list of the Buprestidae and Cerambycidae of the Cranberry Lake region New York. By F. G. Munding. Syracuse, The University, 1924. 336 pp., XIV plates. (N. Y. State college of forestry at Syracuse university, vol. 24, No. 22, Technical pub. No. 17). Bibliography, pp. 219-240.

Carpenter, G. H.

Insects, their structure and life, a primer of entomology... 2d. ed. rev. London, J. M. Dent & sons, ltd., 1924. xi, 335 pp., col. front., illus., col. pl. "References to literature," pp. 310-323.

Chamberlin, William.

Forest entomology. Ann Arbor, Mich., Edwards brothers, 1924. 2 pts. Pt. I. Order Coleoptera. Pt. II. Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera, Neuroptera, Hymenoptera, Isoptera, Diptera. The near relatives of insects, spraying materials and spraying machinery. Collecting and preserving forest insects. Mimeographed.

Corbett, G. H.

"Red stripe" weevil of coconuts (*Rhynchophorus schach* Oliv.). By G. H. Corbett and D. Ponniah. Kuala Lumpur, Printed at the Federated Malay States government printing office, 1924. 51 pp., VI plates. (Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Dept. of Agr. Bul. 36.) Bibliography, pp. 49-50.

Corbett, G. H.

The two-coloured coconut leaf-beetle (*Plesiocha reichei*, Chap.)... Kuala Lumpur, Printed at the Federated Malay States government printing office, 1923. 20 pp., III plates. (Federated Malay States Dept. of Agr. Bul. 34.)



Eastham, J. W. and Ruhmann, Max H.

Diseases and pests of cultivated plants, with an article on sprays and spraying, by H. Hoy. Victoria., B. C., C. F. Banfield, 1924. 112 pp., illus. (British Columbia Dept. of Agr. Bul. 68, ed. 2.)

Hedrick, U. P.

Manual of American grape growing... new ed. New York, Macmillan Company, 1924. 458 pp., illus., xxxii plates. (The rural manuals, ed. by L. H. Bailey.)

Kalshoven, L. G. E.

Aanteekeningen over enkele kina-insecten. Weltevreden, Landsdrukkerij, 1924. 27 pp., IV plates. (Buitenzorg, Instituut voor plantenziekten. Mededeelingen no. 65.) Summary in English, pp. 24-27.

Koegel, Anton.

Die fliegen als schadlinge der landwirtschaftlichen Tierhaltung und ihre Bekämpfung. Berlin, Verlagsbuchhandlung Paul Parey, 1925. 52 pp., illus. (Landwirtschaftlich Hefte hrsg. von L. Kiessling, Hft. 51/52.)

Scherffius, W. H., and Oosthuizen, J. du P.

Cotton in South Africa...Pretoria. South African Central News Agency Ltd., 1924. 207 pp., plates, maps. (South African Agricultural series No. 2.) Insect pests, pp. 157-178.

Stekhoven, J. H.

De Arthropoda van Nederlandsch Oost Indie. V. De bestrijding der luisvliegenplaag. VI. De teeken van de kleine soenda-eilanden. Buitenzorg, Archipel drukkerij, 1924. 46 pp., plates, tables. (Vaartsenijkundige mededeeling no. 25.)

Thompson, Eliza B.

The silk department. N. Y., The Ronald Press Co., 1918. 224 pp., plates, Apx. Books of reference, pp. 203-204. Sources and cultivation of silk pp. 4-13.

Trelease, S. F. and Yule, E. B.

Preparation of scientific and technical papers. Baltimore, Williams and Wilkins Company, 1925. 113 pp., illus.



